

LATIN AMERICAN REPORT



MAY 1958

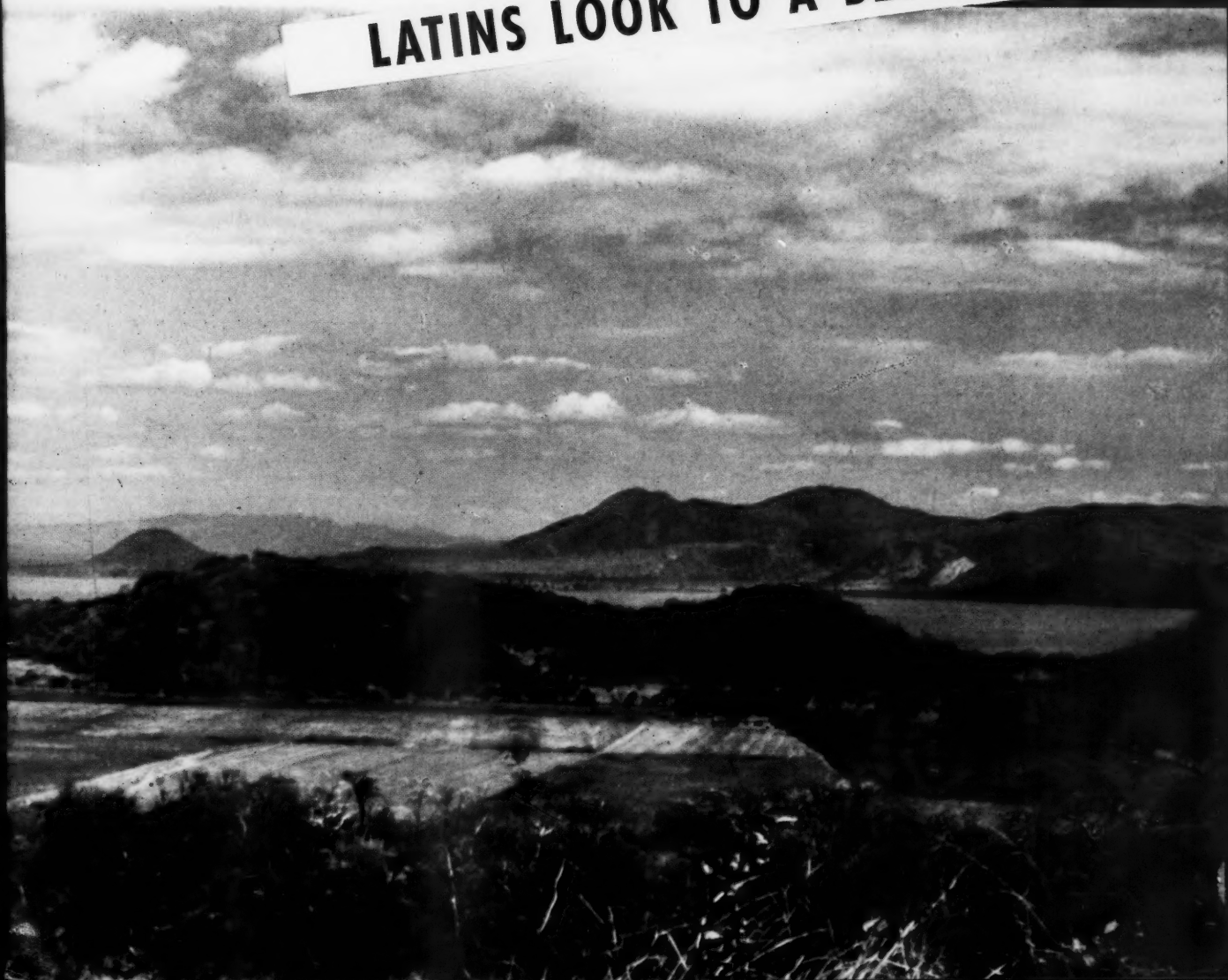
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HEMISPHERE Old concept of Latin America as "the land of mañana" blows up, in face of masses' rising expectations.

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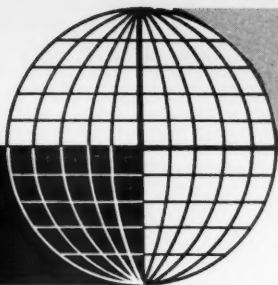


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OUTLOOK

HEMISPHERE

... At this time it seems plausible to look ahead to a considerable increase in Russian bloc trade with Latin American countries. To what extent Moscow's policy of "neutrality through trade" will pay off in political terms remains to be seen. It most probably will be of slight consequence, but it is, nevertheless, a toehold in this hemisphere and even a toenail can cause painful scratches.

Russian efforts in this direction produced first major results in Argentina. The breakthrough came as a result of Raul Ondarts' mission to the Soviet bloc countries, which produced contracts for over \$27 million in trade with Argentina (including drilling rigs and other petroleum equipment vital to that country's development program). Trade with the Soviet bloc, which had dropped from \$102.4 million in 1956 to \$40 million last year, may see a steady increase as a result of these initial efforts, coupled with Argentina's needs and Russia's willingness to extend help.

Brazil is a second major target for Russian trade feelers in this hemisphere. Like Argentina, there are soft spots in the country's armor. Brazil, too, needs help to develop its state-owned oil reserves, and such help apparently is not forthcoming from the United States. Russian offers to furnish equipment and know-how to drill the wells Brazil needs are understandably tempting—especially if the bill can be met out of coffee surpluses.

Brazil's Finance Minister, Jose Alkmim, has said that no one should be surprised if Brazil were selling coffee directly to Russia soon. The Brazilian National Economic Council was reported to have replied favorably, when consulted by the National Security Council on the suitability of resuming trade relations with countries of the Soviet orbit. There have been a number of trade missions in Brazil from Soviet bloc countries and trade with these countries has been increasing steadily, in spite of severed relations—now stands at \$90 million.

The third major target for Russia's trade offensive is Colombia, where Soviet negotiators have offered to set up a rolling mill, a hydroelectric project and several factories (with technical aid) all on loans of two or three percent interest over a long period. Again the Russians have indicated that they would be willing to take large quantities of Colombian coffee in return.

Elsewhere in Latin America reluctance to trade with the Soviet orbit has been steadily breaking down. Central America is trading directly with Russia through Dutch coffee brokers, and Russian goods are becoming commonplace in these countries. Chile has approved the sale of 6,000 tons of copper wire to Poland and Czechoslovakia through Western Germany, and sale of 300 tons of copper wire to Red China. Such sales will probably become more numerous now that the barrier is broken down.

There is much resentment throughout Latin America against United States policies of lending or handing out vast sums in economic and military aid to Asian and African countries, where any real return may never be realized, while friendly neighbors in the Western Hemisphere remain comparatively neglected and taken for granted. This resentment may be expected to become more virulent if protectionists in the United States are successful in efforts to erect higher barriers to trade with Latin America. If so, there may be correspondingly less reluctance to do business with the Communist countries.

Trade between Latin America and the Soviet bloc nations has increased from \$69 million in 1953 to well over \$200 million in 1957. This is still only about one percent of Latin America's total trade. The State Department has tended to dismiss Russia's current trade offensive as likely to have inconsequential results in Latin America. But it may be well to keep in mind that indirect results may be far out of proportion to any actual dollars and cents value in direct trade.

ARGENTINA

... At approximately the time this issue of *LATIN AMERICAN REPORT* goes before its readers, on May 1, a tall (six feet), scholarly, new chief of state will take over occupancy of the *Casa Rosada* (Pink House), Argentina's Executive Mansion at one end of the *Avenida de Mayo* in Buenos Aires. President-elect Arturo Frondizi, 49, will face an unenviable host of explosive problems. The Hemisphere will be watching sympathetically, but anxiously, to see what this politically ambidexterous lawyer, who was the choice of 4 million Argentines in February's balloting, will make of the situation.

At the time of this writing Frondizi's course may only be predicted. First and foremost among the questions: how far will he go in appeasing the million and a half *Peronista* voters who gave him his impressive margin at the polls? Before the election, Frondizi openly wooed this vote, promised legality for the *Peronista* party, implied at least, amnesty for its exiles. On the heels of Frondizi's victory *Peronistas* were not bashful about making noisy demands and claiming their share of the victory. However, the President-elect nimbly sidestepped the issue, denied that he owed anything to Perón, which seems to fall into line with the idea previously expressed on these pages, that "Frondizi's pre-election bark may be worse than his post-election bite" in this respect.

At press interviews following his victory, Frondizi beat around the bush as much as possible on controversial questions; nevertheless, his answers may shed some light on the policies of his administration. Asked whether the proposed amnesty would be partial or complete, Dr. Frondizi parried that "there would be a general amnesty for political and labor union crimes." Again, he said that whether Perón and his henchmen were permitted to return to Argentina would be a matter for Congress to decide. Little likeli-

OUTLOOK

hood is seen that any member of Congress will stick his neck out to sponsor such a proposal. There remains ample grounds for excluding Perón and his lieutenants on grounds of accusations of common crimes.

It would seem that whatever policies the new President wishes to follow, he at least will have the support of Congress. Seated in the National Congress, at the other end of the *Avenida de Mayo* from the *Casa Rosada*, will be a legislative body made up, two thirds by Intransigent Radicals (Frondizi's party), and one third by the minority People's Radical Civic Union party. That everything will go smoothly for Frondizi, however, is too much to hope for in light of traditional Argentine politics. His support from the central labor organization may be looked upon as something of a double-edged sword. Remnants of the massive labor movement built up and coddled by Perón, still fondly recall the good old days of inflationary wage boosts, and will be clamoring for more of the same.

Immediately after the election, Perón ordered his followers to discontinue their support of Frondizi and pledged continuation of the subversive struggle. Socialist leaders cried out that the elections were undemocratic. Communist support of Frondizi was more in protest against the second-running candidate of the Provisional Government than it was any endorsement of the Intransigent Radicals' program. Moreover, there remains a considerable difference of opinion among the Radicals themselves; so all may not be a bed of roses for the new President—especially in view of the economic problems facing him.

... Questioned on policy toward the United States, Dr. Frondizi said: "We shall maintain very good relations with the United States, both in the political and economic fields, just as we shall with all the countries of the world." But in the field of private enterprise in business, which is of vital concern to the United States, the intellectual President-elect may prove something less than a great white hope. When Lawyer Frondizi made his choice between political right and left in the late 20s, he chose the left, but brought up short of becoming a Socialist or Communist.

However, during the recent campaign Frondizi won Socialist and Communist support with promises to expand nationalization of oil, steel, rail, mining and utilities. The state-owned petroleum monopoly, *Yacimi-*

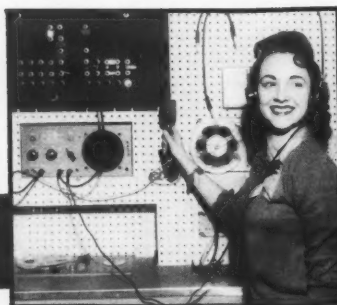
entos Petroliferos Fiscales, long has been a thorn in the flesh of U.S. oilmen, who would like to take a profitable hand in development of Argentine resources, and of economists who see YPF as a serious handicap to the country's critical economic situation. But under the new President's administration there is seen little hope for a relaxation of this jealously guarded state monopoly.

Advocates of free enterprise in the oil industry had centered their hopes around a plan advanced by Mauricio Yadarola, Argentine Ambassador to Washington, which would permit: 1) contracting services of U.S. companies for development; 2) paying the companies with a percentage of oil; 3) allowing the companies to refine and sell gasoline in their own stations within the country. But a few weeks after his election, Frondizi said at a press conference that the so-called "Yadarola plan" does not have the support of his party. "Beginning May 1," he said, "we shall make our own petroleum policy."

That this policy will be nationalistic, he has left little doubt. He has

said on other occasions that "the petroleum problem has but one name—the YPF." And again: "Our position on petroleum is well known. All sacrifices that we may be called upon to make are small in comparison with the importance of controlling our own source of power."

What Frondizi may do, is turn to Russia for help in the development of Argentina's petroleum resources—help which is denied by the United States on a government-to-government basis. The Soviet bloc has offered this aid and could no doubt supply it if they wanted to. Meanwhile the Ondarts Mission, headed by the present Under-Secretary of Commerce, has returned from the Soviet bloc countries with 59 signed contracts for a total of \$27 million in trade. The agreements are with the Soviet Union and Hungary, 11 contracts each; with Yugoslavia, 3; with Poland, 9; Czechoslovakia, 24; and Rumania, 1. Under terms of these contracts, the debt which these countries owed Argentina will be paid by strategic materials, raw materials, agricultural machinery, and petroleum extracting equipment.



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OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

In connection with our June issue, which will feature a portrait study of Panama City, Panama, I have just completed a voyage by United Fruit banana freighter to the Isthmus.

Two aspects stand out vividly as a result of conversations with Panamanian business men, and with the President of the Republic, Ernesto de la Guardia.

One is that the President feels very strongly that there is not now, nor should there be in the future, reason for any real difficulties between the United States and Panama over the operation of the vital Panama Canal. He is fully aware of the points of friction, both from the United States and the Panamanian views—but in sum total these actually amount to very little.

Most convincing is not the words he uses in discussing the situation, but the manner in which he speaks. In such a personal conversation one loses sight of the President as a political leader, or as the business executive that he was before taking office—but rather one is impressed by the deep sincerity of the man, which in turn produces a firm conviction that he feels what he is saying.

The second aspect is that the Panamanian business man, despite the fact that he is affected by a barrage of recession talk from the United States, actually seldom lets such pessimistic views affect his own planning, or even enter into his conversation. Instead, the talk and the plans of the Panamanian business man center on expansion and new business development programs.

After the moaning and groaning heard in the United States, such an optimistic attitude is refreshing, to say the least, and the optimism is contagious. One comes away with the feeling that the future, and indeed the present, is not as dark as some would paint it.

One leaves the Isthmus with the overall conviction that, despite various problems country by country, these republics to the south of us represent not only the land of the future, but important opportunities for the immediate present as well.

William G. Gaudet

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Member, Inter American Press Association

THIS MONTH'S COVER: Across Lake Xolotlan the familiar volcanos rise, and out of the picture to the right of this pastoral scene lies the capital city of Managua, Nicaragua. (Kodachrome courtesy of Joseph W. Thoman.)

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LATIN AMERICAN REPORT

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THE REVOLUTION OF

The underprivileged discover that poverty is not inevitable



... release a driving new force in the lesser developed nations

An unkempt laborer slouches indolently against the plate glass window of a Sears & Roebuck department store window. His workingman's clothes are tattered and far from clean, and yet he seems not at all out of place. He wears a battered hat of plaited straw, a rough cotton shirt that has seen better days, *pantalones* that hang in shreds somewhere between ankle and knee, and a pair of leather *guaraches* separate his bare feet from the hot sidewalk. The place is a typical, large Latin American city. The department store display window bulges with the gleaming gadgetry of modern civilization. The man outside peers in with the possessive look of one who sees the shining new wares almost within his grasp.

Perhaps no more than a decade ago the department store would not have been there. Actually, there probably was not then a middle class in this Latin republic that would have supported a chain store operation. But even had there been a store, its display windows filled with wares, this workingman looking in most probably would have been some mere subsistence farmer from the countryside and entirely outside the money economy. He would have gazed, not with the confidence of one who expects soon to possess what he sees, but rather with the surly curiosity of the indigent wistfully staring at some fabulous gem forever beyond his touch.

But today, throughout Latin America, a sweeping change is overtaking this ill-clad, ill-fed man of the streets. True, he lives yet in poverty, for in spite of all the talk of economic progress and the vaunted brave new world, there are probably more poverty-stricken people today than there were a half-century ago. No, poverty is not new to him. What is new is the awareness on his part, and on the part of millions like him, that poverty is not his inevitable lot—the knowledge that there is a better way of life open to him, and the determination to do something about it.

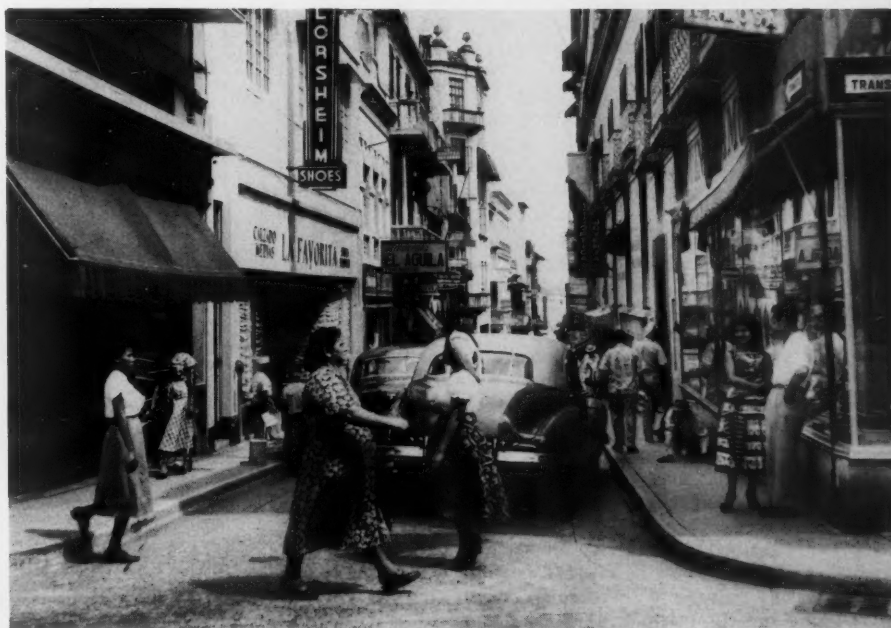
A NEW FORCE. This newly come-by awareness has created a driving

force in the underprivileged areas of the world. The economists have coined a term for this phenomenal new force. They have called it "the revolution of rising expectations."

The so-called "revolution" is a phenomenon common to most of the underdeveloped nations of the world—among them most of the Latin American republics. In the underdeveloped areas of the world live two-thirds of mankind, and in these same areas populations are increasing at the most rapid rates (roughly twice that of the industrial nations). Yet of all the countries of the world, these are the very ones least able to support the rising population glut. To do so they must produce more and consume less, while living standards are in danger of dropping ever lower. A nation where the population is increasing at two times the average rate has to run twice as fast just to stand still in the race for improved standards of living. And that is just what a lot of Latin American countries are trying to do—not entirely without success.

When there is added to these building population pressures the clamor of millions for a better way of life, there is created an atmosphere of intense urgency. This important new phenomenon springs not so much from the leaders as from the masses themselves. The revolution of rising expectations is a product of modern communications: of the radio that brings the outside world into the most squalid home, of the movies that are within reach of the poorest workingman and his family, of the well-filled department store window that displays its charms freely to the tattered passer-by. And once the flame of desire is kindled in the people, and the idea is planted that fulfillment is not outside the realm of possibility, then it is not so much a problem for the leaders to urge the masses on, as for them to keep up with the people.

The unit of power in this great new force is the individual. The part that he plays is that of the atom in a nuclear explosion. By himself and untrigged he is without significance. But taken together with millions like him-



Guatemala: for some, a long way to go . . .

Puerto Rico: others see it almost within reach



Mexico: out of the remote villages of the interior . . .

self, and triggered by new desires, he becomes a potent factor. In the underdeveloped nations of Latin America and of the world, he has, like the atom only recently been triggered.

Who is he—this new unit of power?

MAN LOOKING UP. His name could be Pancho Gonzales, and he might have lived once in an isolated village called San Miguel. The name of the country doesn't matter; the story is the same, with local variations, all over Latin America. A few years ago, sometime after the end of World War II, the government built a road to the village of San Miguel. Up until then, San Miguel's only contact with the outside world had been by tortuous cart trail that led down through the hills to the nearest town, and from there a road led to the city.

But the town that sprawled in the valley at the base of the hills was the end of the world for Pancho Gonzales. Somewhat fewer than a handful of the more adventurous *San Migueleños* had ever gone beyond this world. Sometimes those who had travelled to the city, returned, and at evening when the men from the fields and the hills gathered in the plaza, they told fabulous tales of life in that strange, far-away place. One who listened eagerly, if disbelievingly, was the youthful Pancho.

But with the coming of the road to San Miguel, all that began to change. Now, great, shiny autos drove up from the city on the new road and along the narrow, cobble-stone streets. They blasted their horns impatiently at the plodding *burros* that carried firewood down to the village from the hills. Oddly-clothed *turistas* walked through the streets of the village and commented "how quaint and untouched" San Miguel was. Pancho Gonzales watched these strange goings-on, and listened to the foreign sounds and marveled at what he saw and heard. Little by little, he began to dream impossible dreams. In time the dreams came to seem less unreasonable.

Pancho lived with his wife and three children in an *adobe* hut at the edge of the village. He had built the *adobe* with his own hands after making the mud bricks and baking them in the sun. The ground where the *adobe* stood belonged to Pancho, and there was space to grow some corn for making flour for *tortillas*, and some beans, maybe a few vegetables. There was a *mango* tree in the yard. In good years there was enough to eat. Sometimes he worked in the fields of the local *patrón*, and sometimes he cut wood in the hills and took it on his two *burros* to the nearby town. Pancho was proud to own two *burros*, and also a goat that gave milk for the children.

In town, Pancho bartered the firewood for those essentials of his family's life that he could not produce himself—a few staples, such as salt, occasional items of clothing, sometimes a pair of *guaraches* for his bare feet. Pancho didn't know about such things,

but the economists would have said that he was "outside the money economy of his country."

Nevertheless, he had always been content with his lot. His struggle to exist was no different from that of others in the village—with the exception, of course, of the *patrón* and a few who had always owned much property and lived in big houses; and that was to be expected. But Pancho had never aspired to greater heights. He could not imagine himself living any other way than he did; any other way than his father had, or his father's father before him.

But now that the road had come to San Miguel, some of the youth of the village already had wandered down the road into the town, and beyond the town to the city, and had stayed there. Tales drifted back to the village. Tales of fantastic industry, of earnings that sounded nothing short of fabulous to Pancho who had scarcely known the touch of paper money until now. Ambition began to stir inside him. His dreams no longer seemed so impossible.

ON THE MOVE. One night Pancho told his wife that he had made up his mind. They, too, would go to the city and become rich. The meager possessions that they could not take with them they sold for enough to buy third-class fare to the city. Then one day they walked with the three children down the road to the town and rode in a bus, along with many others like themselves, into a new world.

There, for the first time, Pancho Gonzales experienced the feel of hard, hot concrete and asphalt under his bare feet. In time he found a job in a small steel rolling mill in the industrial



. . . into the crude plants and mills of young industries

part of the city. The work was hard, hot, dangerous, because these were not modern, automatic machines; they were crude, manually operated cast-offs of another industrial nation, handed down from another industrial age. But here they were part of a new industry, and it paid Pancho more than he had ever earned before. For the first time in his life he had become a statistic in the "money economy" of his country.

Several years pass by. Pancho Gonzales lives with his family in a sparsely-furnished, two-room tenement apartment in a crowded, squalid, old section of the city. He has electric lights (one bare bulb in each room); he has running water, a bath shared by several other families; he has a cheap radio that blares long-winded commercials creating a formidable host of new wants not even dreamed of by Pancho a few years before; and between the commercials, fiery political talks that promise fulfillment of the newly come-by desires. Pancho Gonzales still lives in poverty, but he knows now that it is not inevitable. He sees a way out and he is pushing all the way.

He works eight hours a day in the rolling mill where he started when he came to the city. He makes six pesos for a day's work (U.S. 75 cents). He is active in a labor union that provides him a good many other, less tangible, benefits, a great deal of security—promises much more. He is proud of his union. He is proud of the burgeoning industry that gives him employment. He is proud of his country, which he is beginning to look on as a rising industrial nation. He has listened intently to the speechmaking and he is imbued with the spirit of nationalism.

At home the fare is still *tortillas* and *frijoles*. But Pancho is served one meal a day at the plant where he works (a common practice in some plants in Latin America to assure better nourished, more productive labor), has acquired a broader taste in foods, looks forward to the day when the family will dine better at home. He has bought a second-hand bicycle to ride to work; is thinking, perhaps with a bit too much optimism, of someday owning a car of some kind.

RISE IN EXPECTATIONS. Once in a great while Pancho takes his family to a cheap neighborhood movie, sometimes sees pictured a society where even unskilled workers like himself own pleasant homes, drive bright new cars, have appliances by the score—sees no reason why this should not be his own lot very soon.

The three elder children of the Gonzales family (there are now several younger ones) are attending a public school established by the government in a concerted effort to stamp out ill-

iteracy. Pancho, himself, has attended a union-sponsored school, has learned to read and write with some effort. He has registered to vote. He votes, more often than not, for the politician who, with finger on the pulse of his country, has promised the most the quickest.

Pancho Gonzales is one individual in the vast revolution of rising expectations—one unit of power in a driving new force. Multiply him by maybe a hundred thousand like him in his adopted city, by several million up and down the ladder of social and eco-

nomie evolution throughout his native country, by perhaps as many as one hundred million people with newly-aroused desires throughout all of Latin America, and one begins to see the scope of this important phenomenon of the times—begins to feel the urgency of a continent on the move.

Soon there develops on a national scale a determined unwillingness to be denied, even if it means resorting to drastic and unreasoned political extremes. The leaders that the Pancho Gonzalezes help to put in office are

1947 — 1958

ELEVEN YEARS IDENTIFIED WITH PROGRESS AND LEADERSHIP

IN MEXICO'S NEW ERA OF INDUSTRY



Celanese Mexicana S.A.

EXPANDING FRONTIERS IN THE FIELDS OF CHEMICAL FIBERS
PLASTICS CHEMICAL PRODUCTS CELLULOSE



Nicaragua: in 1940, 234 motor vehicles on the streets . . . today, 8,000 motor vehicles

subjected to intensive pressures to find a means to satisfy the new-found wants of an awakened people. The people demand in a matter of years economic and social gains that took the industrial nations a century to achieve. Results have to be immediate and tangible.

THE RESULTS. A desperate urgency is born of this revolution of rising expectations, many times almost matching that of wartime—an urgency to move ahead under forced draft, to acquire a standard of living, if not on a par with that of the United States, then at least equal to that of industrial nations like Italy or Japan. In spite of constant pressures for social and economic advances, the governments of these underdeveloped countries cannot realistically hope to match, over night, living standards built up in the industrial nations over the centuries. Mexico, for example, has made momentous strides in late years. Yet in 1955, per capita product was only \$187, compared to \$2,343 in the United States. To increase per capita product to the present U. S. level by 1980 (when Mexico's population will have doubled), Mexico would have to boost national output 2,500 percent, at a cost of \$400 million in capital invested.

As individuals, how far have they come today, along the road to fulfillment of their expectations—these Pancho Gonzalezes of Latin America?

Well, some have come quite far; some actually have made the grade already. Evidence of this is seen on every hand in Latin America. Especially is it apparent in the evolution of the healthy, ambitious, fast-growing middle classes which, by and large, did

not exist in most of these countries only a few years ago. Still others are only now awakening in the sleepy villages of the hinterland. But the great majority lie somewhere in between. They are the ones who are thrusting up out of the morass of poverty with all the brawn and sweat of their work-hardened bodies—the ones who are pushing their way out of the countryside and the remote villages to swell the fattening cities, grist for the mills of new and growing industry. They are the not-yet-arrived, the ones who are pushing hardest, demanding most, contributing most to the urgency of the moment—the great middle classes of tomorrow.

Nevertheless, in the underdeveloped nations where modern communications have whetted consumer appetites, while production has continued to lag far behind the hopes of material progress, there is always present a very real danger that the people will resort to political extremes that will only plunge them deeper into want. In different countries, these extremes have followed devious courses.

In efforts to meet growing demands made upon them, some governments have succumbed to the urge to industrialize too fast for their limited capital resources. Determined to achieve industrial self-sufficiency at any price, Argentina, under Perón, built factories by decree, rather than by economic demand. Labor was given high wage increases without corresponding increases in productivity, and were permitted to featherbed on the job. The result: inefficient plants making products that were priced out of a market.

OUTCOME: INFLATION. In still other countries the extremes followed the way of nationalization of industry. Bolivia appropriated agricultural lands and divided them among the Indians, then nationalized the tin mines. But land reform cut farm production and brought on increased food imports; nationalization of the mines caused production to slip and tin exports to drop.

Chile attempted to assuage rising expectations of the people by setting up elaborate social security systems: pensions at 100 percent of pay cost taxpayers 28 percent of the national budget. Other nations hastened into large public works projects not yet justified by the countries' needs. Brazil gave in to demands of blind nationalism, spurned foreign offers to develop its petroleum resources, set up a government monopoly to do the job, while lacking technical knowhow, capital and equipment. Result: Brazil in 1956 produced only 12 percent of its petroleum requirements, spent \$268 million of scarce foreign exchange on oil imports. Argentina also has adopted a similar stand.

Aroused expectations in many countries have not been long in outstripping means. In many underdeveloped nations, the desire to consume goods faster than production, and the productivity of labor, could be increased to meet demands, has led to runaway inflation—a prime economic problem of today. Hardest hit of all the regions of the world has been South America. Bolivia is at the top of the United Nations' list for inflated cost of living; Chile is in second place; not far behind are Brazil and Argentina. Among the nations of the world, these often have been the least able to afford the resulting economic setbacks, because their populations are among the world's fastest growing. The result has been that where expectations rose the sharpest, the struggle for a better life often has received the hardest setback. This is evidenced by the fact that in many of these countries the workers and middle classes, by and large, live worse today than they did a decade ago.

The solution, as one economist sees it, calls for "a combination of economic realism, political courage, and a strong faith in the future." There is some indication that those Latin American nations backed against the wall by inflation, have begun to produce leaders with economic vision and the courage to insist that their peoples take their belts up a notch and face the picture with realism.

CAPITAL NEEDS. One such was Pedro Aramburu of Argentina, who as head of the provisional government, proved a staunch advocate of the doc-

trine that production must come before benefits. How the new Argentine government will react to the situation remains to be seen. Bolivia's President Siles Zuazo, who termed his country's inflation "a fire burning down our house," has warded off many threats to his austerity program. Under Siles' stabilization program the currency has held steady the past year and soon may be replaced by a new, stronger appearing, and more manageable currency. Chile's aged President Carlos Ibañez still clings precariously to the Klein-Saks mission and its unpopular anti-inflationary program, in spite of recurrent threats and in the face of an election year.

One obstacle of paramount importance in the path of underdeveloped nations' efforts to meet the rising expectations of their peoples, is the lack of sufficient development capital. With tight money situations in most of the industrial nations today, much of the capital for expansion in the underdeveloped countries will have to come from local sources. The internal problem facing these countries, according to economists, is to hold down consumption and create a pool of savings that can be tapped for development. It is a pretty good rule of thumb, economists say, that any country with a growing population should save for reinvestment at least 10 percent of its gross national product, if it is progressively to raise its standards of living and meet in orderly fashion the rising expectations of its people. If a nation saves from 10 to 15 percent, it can expand quite rapidly. The United States saves 17 percent of its national product, but Chile, for example, saves no more than eight percent.

Costa Rica: rising expectations and the better life



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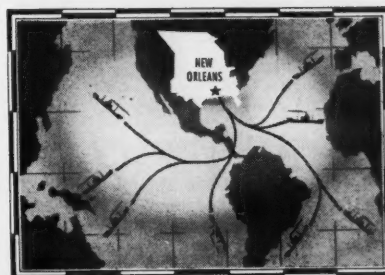
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If these countries are to help themselves, their governments must do everything possible to encourage creation of local capital, and to supplement this by creating conditions favorable to capital from abroad. Economists suggest that these countries limit tax rates and halt government encroachment into private business, and especially, that they shy away from income taxes on savings. They must make it a paying proposition for their peoples to work and save. Stability of politics and currencies must be achieved to stem the reluctance of private capital to reinvest in business in its own country, to prevent it from taking refuge abroad.

THE RED THREAT. Economists advise that everything possible be done to stimulate a shift from individual and family-type enterprises to joint stock companies, to better use local savings. Then, it is believed, those same conditions that stimulate local businessmen to start new businesses and expand old ones, will also attract more foreign business and capital. The two may then expand and grow together to fulfill expectations of the people for improved standards of living.

These nations cannot afford to stand still in the face of explosive population growth and mushrooming expectations. But help can come only in partial measure from within. From without, help must come in large measure primarily from either the United States or Russia. There was a time, in the first years after World War II, when the United States stood alone as the unchallenged provider of economic aid to the underprivileged countries. But lately the Soviet Union has emerged more and more as an important provider of both economic and technical aid in some parts of the world, and it appears likely that this is only the beginning.

Soviet bloc foreign aid to ten underdeveloped nations in the past two and one half years amounted to \$1.5 billion, while U.S. aid to these same nations in that period was only \$900 million. But of more direct importance to the United States is Russia's new policy of "neutrality through trade", designed to win Latin American countries away from support of U.S. policies. At present the USSR has achieved no important breakthrough, but there is a lot of visiting back and forth of trade missions; a lot of offers are being made and discussed. Soviet bloc countries are offering aid to develop state-owned Argentine and Brazilian petroleum industries, where the United States has balked. These are important enticements to these nations, and will come in for a lot of consideration. Moreover, Russia's Sputnik successes have engendered a great deal more respect in Latin America for Soviet tech-

nological prowess.

THE CHALLENGE. At present, Latin American trade with Soviet bloc countries amounts to only about one percent of the area's total. But if this trade is not to be allowed to grow, the United States is going to have to do some rapid reappraising of its trade and aid policies toward these trade-hungry peoples. But words in this vein will have to be accompanied by some real action. The United States could get off to a good start in this direction by progressively eliminating trade barriers that stand in the way of these countries helping themselves. The uphill fight against tariff restrictions will have to be won. The government will have to encourage greater flow of private investment abroad by doing away with discouraging barriers at home against foreign investment, and by helping to create a favorable climate for foreign investment in those nations abroad.

Where there are no takers in the field of private investment for certain development programs, such as for the establishment of an industrial foundation in an underdeveloped nation, the United States may have to extend government-to-government aid in more substantial amounts than it has in the past. Export-Import Bank loan policies have come under attack as being too rigid for Latin American conditions and there seems to be some disposition among officials in Washington to take action to ease this situation. Ex-Im Bank loans to Latin America declined last year to \$250 million, after reaching \$409 million the year before. World Bank officials see a possibility that total bank lending to Latin America this year may be twice as great as that of last year.

The revolution of rising expectations in the underdeveloped Latin American countries could, and probably will, lead to trouble in isolated instances; but by and large it is recognized as a progressive force. The danger lies in pushing too far too fast—in taking hasty and unreasoned actions that may boomerang later on. But if there is an element of danger present in this new force, there is an even much greater element of challenge.

The challenge is to private enterprise to provide the wherewithal to feed and nourish the rising expectations; to the United States to stimulate private investment, and to take the helm where private capital cannot or will not go; and to the governments of these countries, themselves, to steer a course in the right direction. With plenty of sound, good sense, a little bit of guts, and a whole lot of luck, the rising expectations for a brighter future can be fulfilled.

INTERVIEW: PRESIDENT LUIS A. SOMOZA

Nicaraguan Chief of State looks to harmonious relations with neighbors . . . sees Central American Federation . . . airs views on handling Communist menace



EDITOR'S NOTE: In this exclusive interview with *LATIN AMERICAN REPORT*, the tall, soft-spoken, young President (by popular election) of Nicaragua, Luis A. Somoza de Bayle, leaves little doubt of his understanding and genuine interest in the problems of his country and his people. He refers several times to the struggle of the working classes to better their lot, and efforts for improved housing, health, and education within his country.

The 35-year-old President has always been known as a liberal, by inclination as well as by political party, and he is doing much to steer his government in this direction. Many of his democratic views resulted from a long period (nine years) of schooling in the United States.

At the age of 14, young Luis attended La Salle Military Academy on Long Island. Then he went on to graduate as an agricultural engineer from the University of California at Davis. To that he added other courses at Louisiana State University and the University of Maryland, at which time he also served as his country's military attaché in Washington.

But in spite of his military background, (he retired from service in the National Guard as a colonel in 1950) and that of his late father General Anastasio Somoza, Luis had little interest in a military life and seldom donned a uniform. He was a farmer by profession and by choice, until the assassination of the elder Somoza thrust upon him the job of governing his country. It might be said that at heart he still is a farmer today.

Even so, he did not come into the office of President without previous experience in government. He had been elected to Congress in 1951 and served as president of the Chamber of Deputies, where he was instrumental in putting through certain social legislation. His legislative experience brought him into contact with leaders of the opposition Conservative party and taught him the art of conciliation, in a country where politics often are taken stubbornly and personally—an acquired knack that will stand him in good stead as he leads his country down the road to further democracy.

Q. Mister President: After the death of your father, General Anastasio Somoza, you pointed out that you believed that his assassination was the work of communists. Furthermore, just recently you have again pointed out that you believe that there is a definite connection between the death of your father, that of President Remón in Panama, and the one of Castillo Armas in Guatemala. Is this still your opinion? And if this is so, what special significance (or meaning) can you give to these assassinations?

A. I really have the conviction that in the assassination of General Somoza there was communist participation. The criminal resources employed by the members of that international group are well known, as is the great care they take in their activities so as to take advantage of every opportunity which they see fit for their purposes. It is evident that in each case of the regrettable happenings to which you refer, they took advantage of different elements. But in every instance they employed fanatical individuals who were predisposed to make an attempt, thus cooperating with their plans and facilitating the means and occasions for their fulfillment. General Somoza was an energetic and decided enemy of communism. It was national public opinion, as well as that abroad, that communism looked upon him as an immovable obstacle in their infiltration campaign in Central America.

After the experience of Guatemala with the government of Arbenz, Colonel Castillo Armas rose to a height in the anticommunist fight such as that of General Somoza in Nicaragua, and the liquidation of that well remembered President of Guatemala, did not take very long. The details that have been made known of the assassination of Colonel Castillo Armas and those widely made known of the assassination of General Somoza, confirm my conclusions on this point.

After the disappearance of these leaders, my opinion has been strengthened by intensification of the communist campaign, with the evident purpose of provoking chaos



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in our countries and cracking one of the strategic points in the defense line of the Hemisphere, as is the Central American Isthmus, by its geographical position with regard to the location of the Panama Canal.

Q. Do you think that international communism can be controlled better by prohibiting such a party within the various countries, or by allowing them to operate within the respective countries and being able to watch them?

A. In Nicaragua, through a disposition of the Political Constitution of the Republic, the formation and activities of the communist party and of those who sustain similar ideas, have been prohibited. My Government is strictly enforcing this disposition and I personally believe that it is of a just foresight before the realities of our environment. The materialistic dialect of communism and the lures that they make use of in their propaganda, could be of deceitful attraction, by reason that our country, as the others of the isthmus, has an incipient economy. It is known that the subdeveloped economies are appropriate means for communist infiltration.

Care must be taken to differentiate between communism, and labor activities aimed at acquiring the rights of the working classes to a just deal with the social organization, and a more elevated and worthy level of life. Some people get alarmed by all progressive movements of the working classes. This, besides being unjust, is contrary to the legitimate aspirations of the laborers, which must be protected and stimulated in the application of a straight social justice and as a necessary means to maintain the sane vigor of our laboring classes uncontaminated by exotic doctrines.

I am eagerly engaged in seeing that the labor problems are solved with the best and most effective comprehension between employers and workmen, and that the efforts of my Government be more fruitful in every instance in elevating or increasing the standard of living of the weak sectors (weak economically speaking).

Q. How do you think that the United States of America can help—politically or economically—to keep communism from spreading within the Americas?

A. I reckon that the United States of America has a clear vision of what the economic development and the political stability of the other countries of America means to the security of the Hemisphere; and the sincerity of the leaders of that great nation towards our development and progress is evident. But it must be pointed out that the economic help that they are rendering us, which is so much appreciated, has been limited only to certain fields; which, although they are of great importance, do not constitute the larger part of the problems which demand a prompt solution. Just to make a few references in this respect, we can name the cooperation which the United States renders us in highway matters, in the greater production of electric energy, in the industrial development and in other similar activities; but until now no plan has been advanced so that our countries may get loans to intensify educational campaigns and provide more schools; to solve the housing problem, which is critical; for health and sanitation campaigns. These are problems perhaps of greater importance than others for which we receive help,

as housing, health and education, are objects of a greater preoccupation (and with a lot of reason) for each person. I believe that it would be very wise to make a thorough study of these matters because of the intimate relation they have with the opportunities of communism.

Q. Just recently, press communiques from Managua have quoted you as saying that you wish to reform the Constitution to avoid reelection and that no relative of the President may be a candidate. What do you think would be obtained with a change like this in the Constitution?

A. It is so, indeed. As I have expressed it, I will submit to the consideration of the National Congress a bill to reform the Political Constitution now in force, so that the person who has held the Presidency of the Republic in the previous term may not be elected President for the following term, nor any of his relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity.

As no doubt you know, in the last elections, the Nationalistic Liberal party elected me to the Presidency of the Republic, and my party always fought for rotation in power, and maintained this principle in the political constitutions which were promulgated under the Liberal regime. If it was decided to vary, temporarily, this criterion, with the reforms made by Congress in August 1954, it was so moved only because the popular strength of General Somoza, not only among the Liberals but also among sectors of the Conservative party, made of him a powerful factor for order and progress in the country. This was at a time when the Conservative party was abandoning civic means in its political activities, to resort to conspiracy and alteration of national peace. It can justly be said that it was the Conservative party that determined the said reform of the Constitution, by its conduct of disloyalty towards the political agreement that with all good faith was concluded by General Somoza with General Emiliano Chamorro on April 3, 1950. As General Somoza is no longer President, there is no longer any reason to justify that criterion. My Party, and I personally, believe that although the principle of rotation in power restricts in a certain way the free manifestation of popular opinion on the person of its preference for President of the Republic, it is healthful for the normal exercise of democracy in countries such as ours.

Q. At present, all conversation in the United States of America is about the economic situation of the moment. If this situation should get really worse, how do you think this would affect Nicaragua?

A. It would be unavoidable that a prolonged economic recession in the United States of America would reflect very considerably on our economy. The United States of America is our market and we depend on the prices it pays for our export products, mainly sugar, coffee and lumber. The consequences would be very great and serious in the economic order and in the social order as well, and would provoke a long period of readjustment for our systems of life with consequent dangers for the country. Although the considerations which this problem awakens are dark, the efforts of President Eisenhower's Government to overcome this situation are most encouraging,

and we are confident that his experience and capability will find the way to pull out of the difficulty gracefully.

In respect to conversations of the economic problems in the United States of America, there are persons who think that this is the time to look towards the south. The political stability and peace that my Government maintains, the special law on capital investment and the one which regulates the exploitation of natural resources of the country, guarantee sufficiently those who wish to bring their capital to Nicaragua to organize enterprises which may help the progressive economic development of the nation, with reasonable profits for the investors.

The greatest incentive is constituted in the natural resources of the country which, exploited with sufficient capital, may insure generous income. My Government has inaugurated studies that allow us to give to those interested, sufficient and precise information. The ample and comprehensive attitude of the state does not extend to pure commercial activities, but it tends to foment or encourage the productive industries. It is worth mentioning that in Nicaragua no danger exists that private enterprise may suffer a change which would imply risk for the investors.

Q. In view of the fact that Honduras and Costa Rica have elected new presidents, what is your attitude in relation with these two countries?

A. The recent election of Doctor Ramon Villeda Morales and the one of Mario Echandi Jiménez, please me most sincerely. Their personal qualities and their Central

American feelings, which they have evidenced in their outstanding public performances, permit me to state that my Government shall maintain with Honduras and Costa Rica the most cordial relations. As a bordering country of these two sister republics, it is of the greatest importance for Nicaragua to strengthen its relations with them, within a mutual comprehension of the superior interests of our peoples.

Q. There has existed, for many years, quite a lot of talk of a federation of Central America. What is your opinion of that federation and when do you think it may become a reality?

A. I have boarded the subject of the union of Central America on several occasions, manifesting my sympathies for the aspiration of concreting into one sole political entity our now disperse nationalities.

I think that the most effective way would be to develop successive stages of unification: first, integrating our economies, making uniform customs laws, creating a common market, and then adopting all the other steps which eventually would bring us to acknowledge that we were prepared to complete the unitary order in the political and administrative aspects.

The Central American States Organization is doing an excellent job in the sense of bringing together the necessary elements of thought, in preparing studies, and in creating the necessary climate for each one of these successive steps. This is a task that has the backing of the Government of Nicaragua, in the firmest conviction that the aspirations of unity are real and effective.

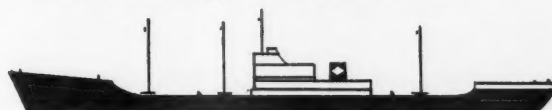
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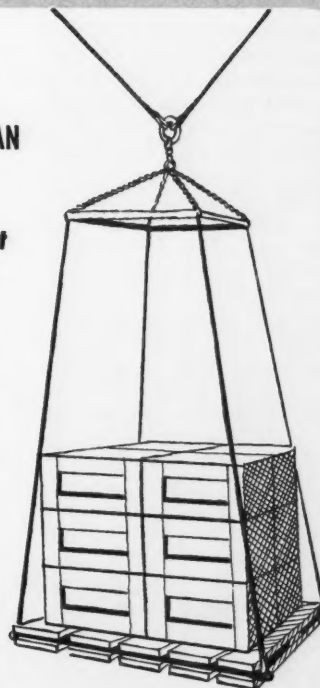
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"Nine leagues from the coast of the southern sea," it is written, Spanish Conquistadores exploring up the Central American isthmus in 1522, came upon "another sea, of fresh water," surrounded by low, wooded hills and upthrust volcanic peaks. On the southern shore of this "fresh water sea" was discovered a native village. The village was called Manahuac, which in native tongue meant "surrounded by ponds," and the Spaniards corrupted the name into "Managua." The native chieftain who ruled over the region was named Nicaragua.

Today the native village that the Spaniards found by the fresh water sea has grown into a thriving city of some 155,000 people, and has become the capital of a nation. It goes today by the euphonious name of Managua, Nicaragua.

Managua sprawls along the southern shore of the lake by the same name, many times called by its native name: Xolotlan. The word "sprawls" may be used to describe Managua, because, like the people of Nicaragua most of whom live by the soil, the city itself disdains lofty heights and clings closely to the fertile earth.

The people of Managua, who often refer to themselves as *los capitalenos*, have come a great way from the natives of Manahuac, or the Span-

iards who discovered it. But they have not yet been caught up in the frenzied rush of Twentieth Century North American life. Managuans remain an unhurried, light-hearted people who still know how to get a lot of enjoyment out of simple living. They are a friendly people quick to take the stranger into their fold and make him feel at home among them. To use an expressive Latin term, Managuans may be said to be "*muy sympaticos*." Among them one feels no strained attempt to affect an unnatural culture not their own. Here is a place where all pretense is ruled out in favor of shirt-sleeved informality and comfortable *joie de vivre*.

In spite of a long history of internal interference and outright occupation of their country by the U. S. Marines (1912 to 1933), Nicaraguans hold little apparent resentment for North Americans. In fact, there are few Latin American countries where the North American encounters such open, unrestrained friendliness as among the people of Nicaragua. It would almost seem, instead of holding a grudge against the United States for past interference in their internal affairs, that Nicaraguans have preferred instead to cherish and profit by the cultural heritage derived from the Marines' stay. The United States, as

a result, is looked to as a sort of national mentor. North American influence on Nicaraguan culture is apparent on every hand, and English is a common second language among *capitalenos*.

THE MODERN LOOK. Although Managua existed as a native village long before the Spaniards came, as a city—and as Latin American cities go—it is relatively new. It was not until 1819 that it was officially given the title of "village" by royal decree. The city's rise to prominence dates from its designation as capital of the republic in 1852. In that year the long-standing, bitter rivalry between the two older and more powerful colonial cities of Leon and Granada was put at rest by the selection of then unimportant Managua, halfway in between, the other two, to be the seat of government for Nicaragua. From that date, Managua grew slowly but steadily to its present estimated population of 155,000. Even though a young city, Managua appears less old than it actually is. This is because some 36 blocks in the heart of old Managua were destroyed by the great earthquake and fire of March 31, 1931. In rebuilding after the quake, Managua acquired a new look—the look of modernity.

But if Managua has acquired a modern look, it is not the look of plate

glass and skyscrapers that lend a modern touch to so many of the old cities of Latin America today. In Managua, the buildings are strewn out rather than stacked up, and most of them are only one or two stories tall. Architectural surfaces are characterized by grace and simplicity. Noticeably lacking are the ornamental encrustations that decorate buildings in many cities. Windows are deeply recessed and sparingly distributed in the plain wall surfaces; balconies which elsewhere appear as decorative afterthoughts, elaborately worked in iron and wood, in Managua form integral parts of wall structures, as plain as the rest.

The city, rising very gently from the shore of Lake Xolotlan to the hills beyond, is laid out on a gridiron plan with avenues running north and south and streets east and west. Avenues are numbered First, Second, Third, etc., in either direction from the central thoroughfare, which is the Avenida Roosevelt. Streets follow a similar pattern, laid out in either direction from the Calle Central, which intersects the Avenida Roosevelt in the center of the city. The business district surrounds this central intersection and spreads out from it.

Managua differs from most other Latin American capitals in that it is not built around a single central plaza. The principal park, Parque Central, in spite of its name, is located at the

northern edge of the city near the lake shore. Here one finds the Malecon, lakeshore amusement park, and the monument to Nicaragua's national poet, the illustrious Rubén Darío. Across the street from the Darío monument stands the colonnaded front of the administration building for the National District, which, like the District of Colombia, includes Managua and the surrounding area.

Diagonally across the Parque Central to the southeast is the National Capital building. Just east of the Parque Central a great new cathedral is being erected over a skeleton of steel. In the vicinity of Parque Central, one also finds the city's finest hotels, the Gran Hotel and the Lido Palace, and the best motion picture theaters.

From the Palacio Nacional, the Avenida Roosevelt begins its broad, southward sweep through the city and across the National Parade grounds, straight to the twin spires of the Roosevelt Monument (honoring Franklin D.). Directly above the monument, up a winding road at the crest of La Loma de Tiscapa, stands the stately Presidential Palace—landmark of the city. Behind the Palace the ground drops away sharply to a crater lake, Laguna de Tiscapa, and across a narrow park that surrounds the lake, just off Fifth Avenue, S.E., is located the American Embassy.

Managua is a city of beautiful residential areas. During the construction boom that has been underway the past five years, there has been a movement toward suburban development. Many fine homes are building to the south of the city in the low hills where the climate is cool and pleasant, and along the roads that lead to the coffee-growing sierras. Several low-cost housing developments with government financing and some U.S. aid also are under construction.

Managua is a tropical city. It is neither high (200 feet), nor does it have the benefit of cooling sea breezes. Nevertheless, it boasts a not unpleasant climate. The days are warm but the nights are usually cooled by a breeze from off the lake. There is a pronounced dry season that lasts from December through April, and it is along toward the end of this season and the beginning of the wet season that temperatures run highest, average about 85 degrees.

LAND OF LAKES. The city is situated inland about 28 miles from the Pacific coast. It lies, as has been said, on the south shore of Lake Xolotlan. Xolotlan is about 40 miles long and 16 miles wide. It might be said that Xolotlan's chief value is to provide a beautiful setting for Managua, because it serves very little other purpose. It is little used for transporta-



A few tall buildings add big city touch to low, flat skyline of Managua

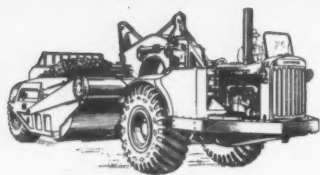


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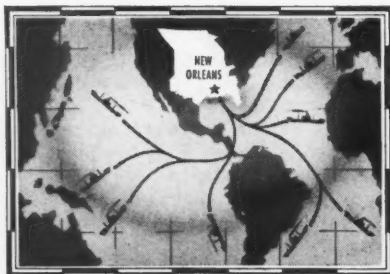
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tion, since the stream that connects it to its larger sister, Lake Nicaragua, is not navigable, and there is only a small amount of fishing done in Xolotlan. There is, however, a sort of sardine that is caught in Xolotlan, and for this reason natives of Managua are sometimes referred to as "Los Saladinos."

Xolotlan is connected to Lake Nicaragua by the 15-mile-long Rio Tipitapa. Lake Nicaragua stretches southeast a distance of 100 miles before it narrows into the Rio San Juan, which flows to the Caribbean Sea. Halfway inland along the southern shore of Lake Nicaragua, the spit of land that separates the lake from the Pacific Ocean narrows to less than 20 miles. It is here that Nicaraguans hope someday to see built a second inter-oceanic canal, which via the lake and Rio San Juan would connect the two oceans.

The eastern and northern two thirds of Nicaragua consist of sparsely settled forests of valuable hardwoods, interspersed with banana plantations. The hilly interior is spotted with rich deposits of gold and other minerals. But most of the nation's population live in that strip of land roughly 100 miles wide that stretches along the Pacific coast from Honduras to Costa Rica, and extends inland to include the watershed areas of Lakes Nicaragua and Xolotlan.

East and north of the lakes are the range lands where herds of beef and dairy cattle graze. In the pleasant hill country between the lakes and the Pacific are the coffee *fincas*. Diriamba, a town some 25 miles south of Managua along the Inter-American highway is the heart of the coffee country. An equal distance southeast of Managua, at the foot of the volcano, Mombacho, on the shores of Lake Nicaragua—or Lake Cocibolca as it is known locally—stands the old colonial city of Granada, onetime rival of Leon as Nicaragua's principal city.

Lake Cocibolca itself is worth mentioning. Seventh in size among the fresh water lakes of the world, Cocibolca boasts the dubious distinction of being the only one with sharks. Thousands of islets dot the expanse of water where natives make their living fishing. The women of the islands are renowned for their fine hand embroidery work.

West and slightly north of Managua some 51 miles is the 17th Century Spanish colonial city of Leon. Here is one of the largest and oldest cathedrals in Latin America. Here also is the University of Leon, which graduated students before the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. It is another 12 miles down to the Pacific



Modern buildings of the Military Academy . . . Presidential Palace on the hill

beach resort town of Poneoya. A short distance farther up the Pacific coast, and connected to Leon, Managua and Granada by rail, is Nicaragua's principal coffee shipping port of Corinto.

CENTER OF ACTIVITY. In this populated belt of Nicaragua is found nearly all of the country's 2,215 miles of roads, including 200 miles of pavement, and 205 miles of the Inter-American Highway, which runs east and south from El Espino on the Honduran border, between Lakes Xolotlan and Cocibolca to Managua, and on south to Peñas Blancas on the border of Costa Rica. Pushing due east 168 miles from Managua (with U. S. aid) is a new road building over the Cordillera and down through the wet forests to the Atlantic-side, river port of Rama. This will complete Nicaragua's first transcontinental highway.

But the geographic center and the center of activity of this populated belt of Nicaragua is the capital, Managua. Set against the blue lake with volcanic peaks for a backdrop, Managua is not only the seat of government, but an important transportation hub, the financial center of the Republic, the country's biggest city and industrial center, and most important focal point of the nation's cul-

tural and social life.

In Nicaragua there is no great family wealth in the sense that this is true in El Salvador, for instance. Society in Managua is more loosely knit, less formal, more available—it might be said, perhaps more democratic—than in most Latin countries. Nevertheless, there are a number of fashionable and exclusive clubs in the city, around which the social life centers. Perhaps the most exclusive of these is El Terraza situated on the top floor of a downtown building. Others include El Club Social de Managua, El Internacional, El Club de Obreros, Club Universitario, Club Juvenil, Casino Militar, and the Country Club, to name a few.

The new, modernistic Nejapa Country Club is situated in a beautiful suburban area just off the Inter-American Highway to the southwest of the city. It boasts the usual country club facilities, including swimming pool and 18-hole golf course, but the setting between the two small lakes of Nejapa and Asososca is exclusively Nejapa. In this pleasant, but expensive, atmosphere the elite of Managua gather to savor the leisurely social life that is a product of the tropical climate and a Latin civilization.

Unlike customs in most Central

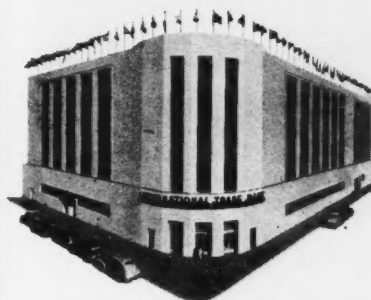
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MANAGUA, NICARAGUA**

American countries, in the social clubs of Managua it is not uncommon to see members of opposition political parties dining or sipping highballs at nearby tables in the same clubroom. One will sometimes see President Luis Somoza, relaxed and convivial, chatting with business or political friends, or perhaps with some member of the local press. The prime topic of conversation here, as all over Managua, is politics. Nicaraguans love to talk politics.

BASEBALL CONSCIOUS. If the talk is not of politics, then the next most probable subject is baseball. Nicaragua is probably the most baseball-conscious of all the Central American republics. Baseball is Nicaragua's national sport. The country supports more than 500 amateur teams, and one seldom goes near one of Managua's many parks, after working hours, without hearing the crack of bat against ball, the smack of ball in glove, and the excited shouts of youngsters enjoying their adopted sport.

The leading amateur ball clubs play regularly in the huge National Stadium (seating capacity 40,000) which was inaugurated in 1948 for the playing of the Tenth Amateur Baseball World Series. Aside from this great spectator sport, sports-loving Nicaraguans enjoy golf, tennis, swimming in the several pools at the clubs and hotels in Managua, or go down to the fine seaside resort beaches at Poneloya, La Boquita, Pochomil, or San Juan del Sur. Others seek the excitement of big game hunting for wild boar, jaguar, deer, alligator and armadillo in the jungles of the interior. Those with strong constitutions may enjoy cock-fighting, which is a popular pastime on weekends and holidays, or the mild form of bullfight, which in Nicaragua is more on the order of a rodeo than a traditional *corrida*.

Still other *Capitalenos* will desert the city for the pleasant coolness of the mountains at such resorts as Casa Colorada, only 14 miles from Managua. Or they may prefer to relax at Tipitapa, a spa on the shore of Lake Xolotlan, a short drive out of Managua along a paved section of the Pan American Highway. In this natural beauty spot one may stay at a comfortable hotel and enjoy swimming or bathing in the warm, sulphurous water of the pool, an evening at the casino, dining on freshly caught fish from the lake.

Nicaragua is primarily an agricultural nation. Its people are a product of the soil—of the coffee *fincas*, the fields of sugar cane, and the cotton plantations. Coffee traditionally is Nicaragua's most important export crop. Its fine grades of coffees are

known on the market as "Nicaraguas," when they come from the country around Managua, "Jinotegas" or "Matagalpas" if from the central provinces. The most rapidly expanding agricultural product in recent years has been cotton, from the western plains area. Nicaragua, since 1950, has risen to first place among the Central American republics as a producer of cotton, in 1955 exported 220,000 bales. Sugar production doubled between 1948 and 1954, in which year the country produced 75 million pounds. With 1,182,000 head, Nicaragua is one of the leading cattle growing nations in Central America.

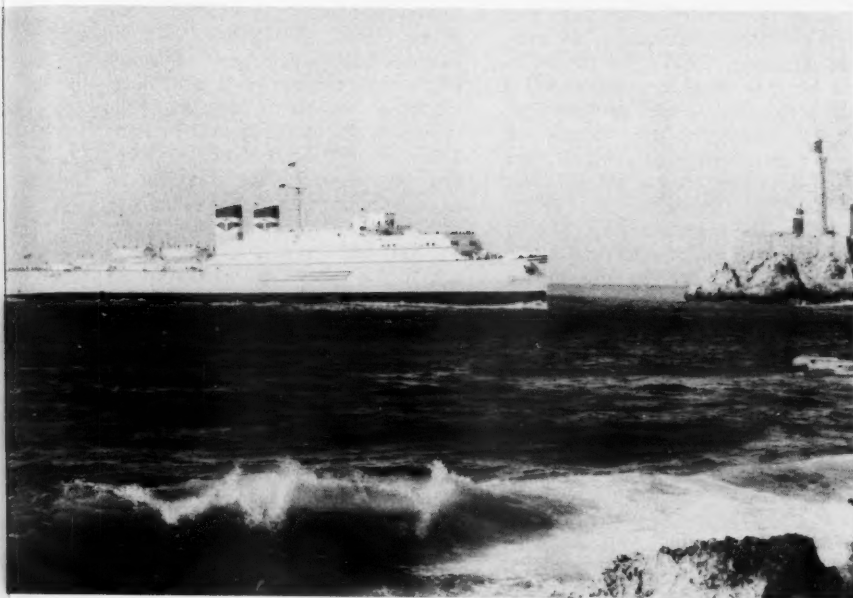
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. Most industry in Nicaragua is of comparatively recent origin and its impact on the nation's economy is still rather difficult to assess. Recently increased cotton production has brought to Nicaragua a healthy young textile industry consisting of 11 mills. Some expansion is taking place in the vegetable oils industry, also as a result of growing cotton production. The construction boom of recent years has been responsible for a rapid increase in the construction materials industry. Nicaragua was the first Central American country to establish a modern cement factory, which now satisfies domestic demand and leaves some cement for export to neighboring countries.

In addition to these fields, industrial expansion may be expected in lumber, plywood and fiberboard industries, to take more advantage of Nicaragua's abundant forest products. There appears to be a need for a flour mill, which Nicaragua does not now have, so that large flour imports may be replaced by less exchange-consuming imports of wheat. Profitable production of certain rubber products might be possible. The country's laws are quite favorable to foreign capital and private enterprise.

A much more liberal and democratic administration appears to be in store for Nicaragua under President Luis Somoza than was the case under the long, benevolent, but dictatorial rule of his late father, "Tacho," who was assassinated in 1956. Under the younger Somoza, apparently democratic elections have been permitted and a free press is allowed to function. It is the opinion of many observers that Luis, personally, would like to see a great many more liberties for his countrymen, and that he is pushing ahead toward these goals in spite of the restraining hand exercised by the remnants of the old guard. The outlook shows little cause for anxiety over the future of this friendly little Central American republic.

LATIN COUNTRIES WOO YANKEE TOURISTS

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITING EACH AMERICAN REPUBLIC?



Havana on a Caribbean cruise

With the approach of summer, hundreds of thousands of Americans begin to get faraway looks in their eyes while their minds turn to thoughts of travel. Last year over a million and a quarter such Americans satisfied their adventuresome urges by sailing, flying or motoring beyond the borders of the United States.

But not enough of them directed their wandering feet toward the neighbor countries of Latin America. Outside of Mexico and Cuba, the stream of tourists from the United States amounted to little more than a dribble. Only about 30,000 Yankees were lured in 1957 by such magnificent South American attractions as Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, Iguassu Falls, Machu Picchu and the majesty of the Andes with their splendid lakes.

This year a number of the Latin republics are planning to do something about this unprofitable situation. Argentina has launched its first plausible project to promote tourism. Brazil also

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Swim in the surf of a Caribbean isle

is making a survey to determine how best to display and advertise its attractions. Chile and Colombia have established tourist commissions, with proper financing, to begin the job of making the Yankee traveler aware of their respective charms.

These charms, many tourists have found, are as varied and startling as gifts in a Mexican piñata. They range from the imposing cosmopolitanism of the dozen Latin American metropolises to the quiet, natural beauty of seascapes uncluttered by hotel towers or garrish neon. There are warm seashore paradises for the water fan and the angler; there are cool, lofty mountain retreats with challenging ski slopes and breathtaking views of Andean grandeur.

To make these attractions more accessible and their enjoyment more comfortable, better transportation and new hostleries are already available or being planned. New luxury hotels opened last year in Curaçao, Jamaica, Cuba and Venezuela. The latter country has five more new buildings. Inaugurations of others are expected this year in Puerto Rico, San Salvador, Havana and Iguassu Falls, the splendid waterfalls in Southern Brazil. And the rumor persists that the Hilton corporation is planning a network of new hotels to include every major city in South America.

Airlines and steamship companies are contributing to the push by stepping up services to the southern half of the Western Hemisphere. Avianca, Pan American, TACA, Braniff, Panagra, Varig of Brazil, to mention only a few, are expanding their services from the U.S. southward. By 1960 jets will be put into service to bring Buenos Aires less than 12 hours from New York.

Grace Line is replacing its pleasant but aging Santa fleet with new, larger ships, two of which go into service this summer between eastern United States and the north coast of South America. Moore-McCormack is scheduled to be ready with its plush \$25-million passenger liners "Brazil" and "Argentina" this fall. They will make the run between New York and Buenos Aires.

Backstopping these efforts to draw the tourist southward, are the travel agencies. Cooperating with the carriers, they are counting on substantially increased promotion and advertising funds. A record number of guided and special interest tours are being offered the would-be traveler to Latin Ameri-

ca: "Ski and See" tours to the Chilean Andes, Grand Tour around South America, plus dozens of cruises into the Caribbean.

Early this year 10 South American travel agents of the South American Tour Association opened an office in New York to provide detailed information on travel to Latin America. Along these same lines, the Inter-American Travel Congress has been giving close study to a proposal to establish an overall South American tourist commission in the United States. Like the successful European Travel Commission, it would represent all the Latin countries and promote tourist trade into Latin America as a whole.

Another incentive offered the United States citizen to vacation in Latin America is the increasing simplification of travel requirements. Already, documentation for the tourist has been slashed to the bare minimum in many countries (see box): Cuba, Panama and the Dominican Republic, for instance, require only proof of citizenship when arriving at their ports of entry. Said one consular official, "It's as easy for an American to travel to my country as it is for him to go to Texas . . ." Most of the countries make it easier for the potential traveler to obtain a tourist visa than it is for him to get an automobile license in his home state.

Latin American tourism promoters and travel enthusiasts see all these factors adding up to a greater flow of Yankees southward this year. And when the eager traveler has checked all the folders, counted his money and figured out the favorable rate of exchange he'll find almost everywhere from Mexico on south, chances are he'll prove the promoters right.

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DOCUMENTS YOU'LL NEED

Travel requirements for United States tourists in almost every country of Latin America are minimal. Universal prerequisite is proof of U. S. citizenship, satisfied with a valid passport or (in some countries) a valid birth certificate. However, it is always best for any traveler abroad to carry a passport for quick and indisputable identification. Other documents required, for pleasure or business travel, are listed below by countries.

ARGENTINA: (Tourist or business) Smallpox vaccination certificate, police good conduct certificate. On arrival at the Argentine port of entry the traveler is issued an identification pass at no charge, valid for 90 days.

BOLIVIA: (Tourist) Smallpox vaccination certificate, letter of good conduct from local police, health certificate from family physician, one photo. Valid for 90 days. (Business) Same documents plus a charge of \$10.

BRAZIL: (Tourist or business) Smallpox vaccination certificate, two passport photos. Tourist agency or transport office will issue entry card valid for 30 days. No charge.

CHILI: (Tourist or business) Valid passport and vaccination certificate. No charge. Valid for 90 days in the country.

COLOMBIA: (Tourist or business) Vaccination certificate, letter of good conduct from local police, round trip ticket and three photos. No charge.

COSTA RICA: (Tourist) Vaccination certificate, good conduct letter from police, round trip ticket, \$2 charge. Valid for 30 days, renewable. (Business) Same only without the \$2 charge.

CUBA: (Tourist or business) Vaccination certificate. On arrival at Cuban port of entry traveler is issued an identification card valid for 2 years. Charge: \$2.50.

ECUADOR: (Tourist) Vaccination certificate, round trip ticket, two photos, \$1. Valid for 90 days. (Business) Same plus additional two photos and a letter from concern represented by traveler.

EL SALVADOR: (Tourist or business) Vaccination certification, good conduct letter from police, health certificate from family physician, one photo. No charge. Valid for 30 days.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: (Tourist or business) No requirements. Carrier which transports passenger to the country issues an identification card, \$2. Valid for 15 days.

GUATEMALA: (Tourist) Vaccination certificate, good conduct letter from local police, \$2. Valid for six months. (Business) Same, plus letter from concern represented by traveler stating purpose of trip and estimated length of stay in the country.

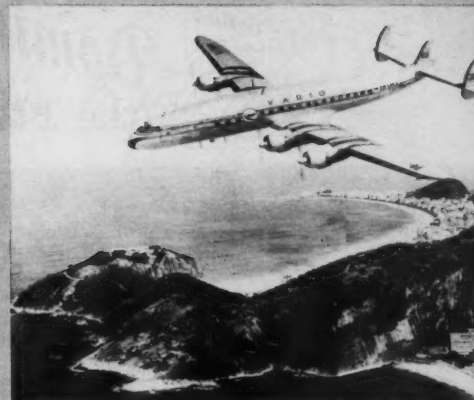
HAITI: (Tourist or business) Vaccination certificate, round trip ticket, \$1. Valid for 90 days.

HONDURAS: (Tourist or business): Vaccination certificate, good conduct letter from police, health certificate from family physician, \$4. Valid for four years.

NICARAGUA: (Tourist) Vaccination certificate. Carrier issues tourist card at no charge. (Business) Vaccination certificate, good conduct letter from police, two photos. No charge.

MEXICO: (Tourist) Vaccination certificate, \$3. Tourist card valid for one trip within a six-month period. (Business) Vaccination certificate, letter from concern represented by traveler stating purpose and expected duration of trip, funds available to traveler; five profile photos and eight front view photos, \$3.

PANAMA: (Tourist) Vaccination certificate, card issued by airline or other carrier. (Business) Vaccination certificate, yellow fever inoculation, good conduct letter from police.



Tourist wings over Sugar Loaf

PERU: (Tourist or business) Vaccination certificate, \$2. Visa valid for 30 days, renewable up to 90 days.

URUGUAY: (Tourist or business) Vaccination certificate. Permit valid for 60 days issued on arrival at Uruguayan port of entry.

VENEZUELA: (Tourist) Vaccination certificate, round trip ticket, letter of reference from bank or some reputable firm or person, four photos. Valid for 30 days. (Business) Letter from concern represented by traveler stating purpose of trip, letter of good conduct from police, three photos. Valid for one year.

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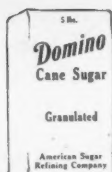
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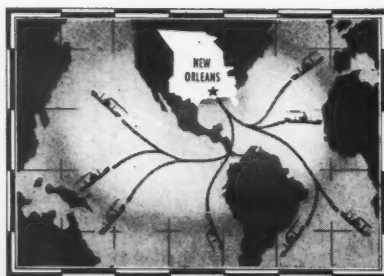
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Books IN REVIEW

Maya Art and Civilization

By Herbert Joseph Spinden
The Falcon's Wing Press, Indian Hills,
Colorado, 1957.

432 pages, illustrated, \$10.

The re-publication in a single volume of two of Dr. Spinden's classic monographs on the Maya will be welcomed by Americanists. This handsome book is divided into two parts.

Part I, entitled *A Study of Maya Art*, is an offset reproduction of the original work which bore the descriptive label, *A Study of Maya Art, Its Subject Matter and Historical Development* and was first published as a Memoir of Harvard's Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, in 1913. Part I thus places in the hands of interested students a work that through the years has remained one of the basic sources of interpretation of Maya hieroglyphs. It is filled with numerous line drawings and 30 plates, few of which have lost any details in the offset printing.

Part II, *The Nuclear Civilization of the Maya and Related Cultures*, was published originally as *Ancient Civilization of Mexico and Central America* by the American Museum of Natural History of New York in 1928. This part too is amply illustrated and epitomizes the status of knowledge of the Maya as of 1928. However, since that time a tremendous amount of research has added such a wealth of details about the Maya as to threaten seriously these generalizations.

A third portion of the volume is a 26-page epilogue, *Maya Dynamic Dating and the Fallacy of Time*. Insofar as I know, this has not been published previously. It contains an explanation of the basis and function of the Maya calendar. Not a single reference or footnote is made to any new works. An example of the disparity between Dr. Spinden's period of writing and modern students is the date of the introduction of maize or corn agriculture. Spinden believes corn was a highland Guatemalan development postdating the arrival of the Toltec conquerors (1112-1127 A.D.). Most Middle Americanists today would accept a beginning date for maize earlier than 1000 B.C.

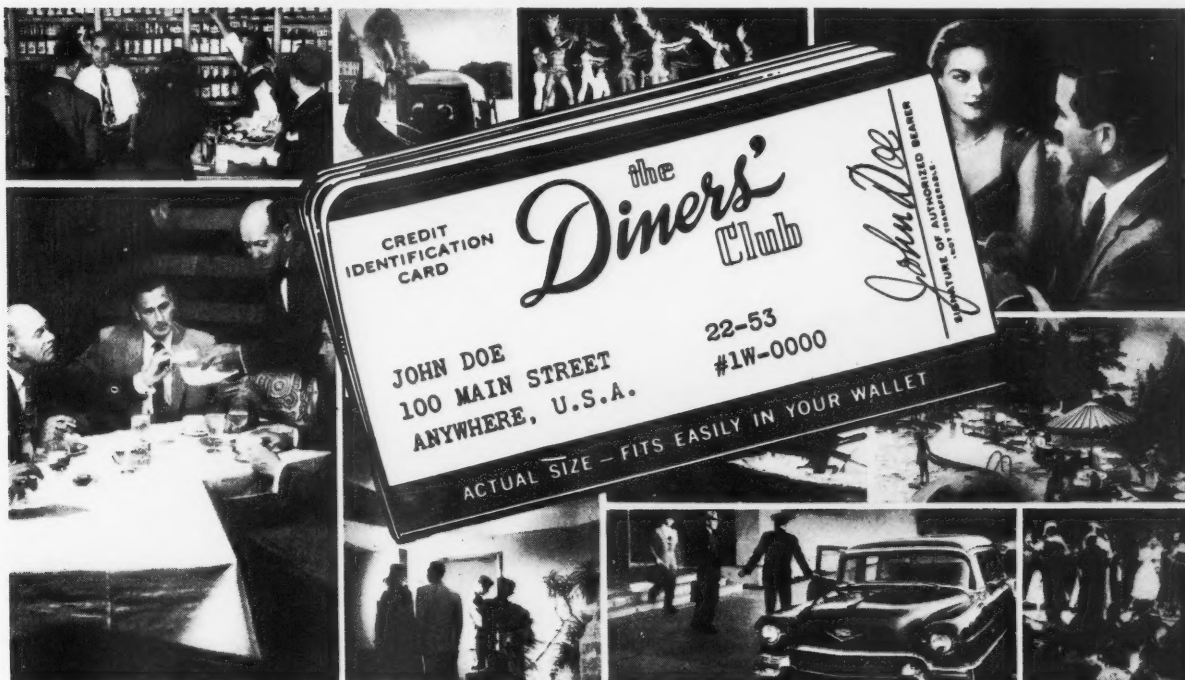
Despite the "dating" of *Maya Art and Civilization*, its publication will serve to fill the gap in many libraries. It will further serve to permit many private libraries to begin a Maya collection with a long-unobtainable basic work.

William G. Haag

Professor of Anthropology
Louisiana State University

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on opportunities for *your* business in the countries served by American & Foreign Power Co., write the Company's Area Development Dept.

